

JUNE 28, 1978

HARRY CHAPIN: FIGHTING WORLD HUNGER
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: HARRY CHAPIN -- AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-FIVE -- ALREADY HAS FIVE BEST-SELLING ALBUMS, A BROADWAY SHOW AND SEVERAL DOCUMENTARY FILMS TO HIS CREDIT -- ONE OF WHICH WAS NOMINATED FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD IN NINETEEN SIXTY-NINE. THE MULTITALENTED AND VERSATILE AMERICAN SINGER HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS A SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS YOUNG MAN. NEVERTHELESS, MANY PEOPLE WERE SURPRISED RECENTLY WHEN HARRY CHAPIN SWITCHED FROM MUSICIAN TO LOBBYIST, TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON AND LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD'S HUNGRY. VOA'S DAVID HYATT HAS DETAILS IN THIS REPORT:

VOICE: HARRY CHAPIN IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC FOR HIT SONG "CATS IN THE CRADLE" -- A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHOSE SON GROWS UP JUST LIKE HIS DAD: TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT HIMSELF TO HAVE TIME FOR OTHERS. A FEW YEARS AGO THIS SONG-WITH-A MORAL-LESSON SATURATED THE RADIO AIRWAVES IN AMERICA.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- MUSIC: "CATS IN THE CRADLE" - HARRY CHAPIN --
IN FULL, PLAY FIRST TWO THEN DOWN AND OUT (TOTAL TIME - 3:24)

VOICE: LATELY...HARRY CHAPIN HAS BEEN SPENDING LESS TIME AS A FOLK ROCK-SINGER-COMPOSER AND MORE TIME ON THE "GOOD CAUSE" CIRCUIT -- LESS TIME IN RECORDING STUDIOS AND MORE TIME IN WASHINGTON, LOBBYING FOR A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE CAUSES OF HUNGER. AND, HE SAYS, HIS EFFORTS ARE PAYING OFF:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CHAPIN :37

"LAST APRIL, MY WIFE AND I AND SOME CONGRESSMEN HAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEED FOR SOME GREATER VISIBILITY ON THE HUNGER ISSUE. WE DECIDED THAT DESPITE THE PAST COMMISSIONS THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A COMMISSION ON HUNGER: WORLD AND DOMESTIC, AND THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE KIND OF VISIBILITY THAT WOULD GIVE. SO, I WENT DOWN TO WASHINGTON, STARTED LOBBYING AND INDEED, IN AUGUST, WROTE UP A RESOLUTION FOR CONGRESS. I SIGNED UP 53 SENATORS AND 256 CONGRESSMEN AS CO-SPONSORS. IT PASSED THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY AND PASSED THE HOUSE 364 TO 38. THEN I STARTED LOBBYING THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THREE AND A HALF MONTHS AND ON FEBRUARY 3RD WENT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. WE TALKED ABOUT IT, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS GOING TO APPOINT SUCH A COMMISSION, AND I WAS TOLD LAST WEEK THAT I WOULD BE ON IT. SO, IT'S GOING TO BE INTERESTING."

VOICE: SINCE 1973, HARRY CHAPIN'S CHIEF EXTRA-MUSICAL CONCERN HAS BEEN HOW TO HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN THE WORLD. HE HAS STUDIED THE PROBLEM AT LENGTH AND CAN NOW POUR OUT STATISTICS LIKE A COMPUTER:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- CHAPIN :37

"THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT OVER 202 YEARS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE FOOD AREA HAS NOT PRODUCED A COHESIVE FOOD AND HUNGER POLICY. INDEED, THERE ARE MANY PROGRAMS THAT WASTE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WITHOUT ANY IMPACT. THESE HAVEN'T BEEN EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THEIR ACTUAL ABILITY TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON HUNGRY PEOPLE IN AMERICA -- WHERE THERE ARE 20 MILLION -- OR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WHERE THERE ARE HALF A BILLION. SO, OUR IDEA IS NOT TO HAVE ANOTHER STUDY COMMISSION, NOT TO COME UP WITH ANY FANCY FINDINGS. THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE'RE SENDING 45.5 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TOBACCO THIS YEAR TO STARVING PEOPLE UNDER THE FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM. IT'S SORT OF AN INTERESTING CONCEPT, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE IT HAS A SALUTORY EFFECT ON CHILDREN'S BELLIES."

VOICE: HARRY CHAPIN HAS BEEN CALLED A CAPTIVATING STORY-TELLER WHO GETS ACROSS A POINT-OF-VIEW BY PRODUCING MUSICAL FABLES: SHORT STORIES WITH A MORAL LESSON. CRITICS SAY HIS MUSIC IS "MEANINGFUL" BECAUSE IT'S EVERYDAY LIFE -- FROM A LITTLE BOY WHOSE CREATIVITY IS STAMPED OUT BY A NARROW-MINED

VOICE: TEACHER TO A GIRL WHOSE DEVELOPMENT IS HINDERED BY SEX
(CONT'D) ROLES SET FORTH BY SOCIETY. HARRY CHAPIN'S CONCERNS ARE
NOT LIMITED TO HUNGER. PERHAPS THAT'S WHY WE'RE LIKELY TO
HEAR MUCH MORE FROM THIS ENERGETIC YOUNG MINSTREL. IN
FACT, HIS SIXTH ALBUM HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED -- AN ALBUM
CALLED "LIVING ROOM SUITE." AND ONE SELECTION REVEALS
HARRY CHAPIN'S CONTINUING CONCERN FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS --
THE SONG: "WHY DO LITTLE GIRLS?"

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MUSIC: "WHY DO LITTLE GIRLS?" -- HARRY CHAPIN,
PLAY FIRST TWO VERSES (ABOUT 1:20) OR AS NEEDED (TOTAL
TIME - 4:30)

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BML/DL